



Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Peace Independence Democracy Unity Prosperity

Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry

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Dear Dr. Rebecca Lent,

**Invitation to Discussions on the Way Forward for the IWC-  
Responses from Lao PDR**

Please kindly refer to the Circular IWC.CCG. 1295 dated 16 February 2018 concerning invitation to discussions on the Way Forward for the IWC.

The government of the Lao PDR strongly support Japan's series of proposal and action on way forward of the IWC.

The current IWC has not been beneficial for IWC members supporting sustainable exploitation of whale resources, which is one of the main objectives of the ICRW, because IWC has not been able to make meaningful decisions. In order to make IWC more functioning according to the ICRW's objective, some drastic and novel approaches are needed. Constructive discussions among the member countries before voting for decision-making are insufficient. Therefore, current IWC's decision-making mechanism should be reformed.

Yours Sincerely



**Bounkhouang KHAMBOUNHEUANG**

Deputy Minister and  
IWC Commissioner for Lao PDR  
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry